IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and/or treatment of skin ulcer or bedsore in humans or animals which comprises~~ A method for preventing or treating a skin ulcer or decubitus ulcer (bedsore) comprising:

administering an effective amount of one or more ~~a~~ nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist(s) to a subject in need thereof ~~as an active ingredient~~.

2 (Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition for the prevention and/or treatment of~~ The method of Claim 1, wherein said skin ulcer is a diabetic skin ulcer ~~in humans or animals which comprises a nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist as an active ingredient.~~

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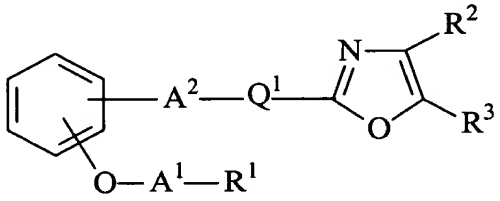
3 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof:



[wherein

R^1 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

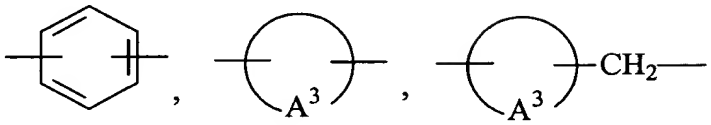
R^2 is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

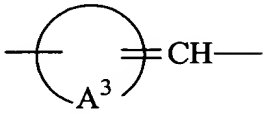
R^3 is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

A^1 is lower alkylene,

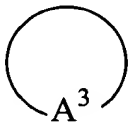
A^2 is a single bond or lower alkylene and

$-Q^1-$ is:



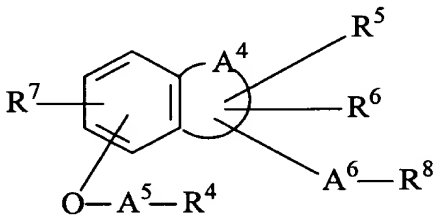
or 

B2 (in which



represents cyclo(lower)alkane or cyclo(lower)alkene, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents)].

4 (Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(II)

B2 [wherein

R^4 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

R^5 is hydrogen, hydroxy or protected hydroxy,

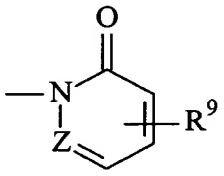
R^6 is hydrogen, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, lower alkyl or halogen,

R^7 is hydrogen or halogen,

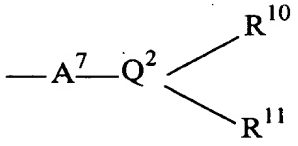
A^5 is lower alkylene,

A^6 is a single bond or lower alkylene and

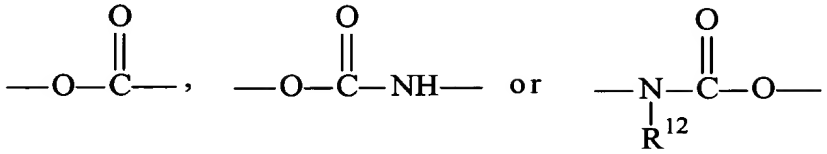
$-R^8$ is:



(in which R^9 is mono(or di or tri)aryl(lower)alkyl and Z is N or CH) or



(in which $-A^7-$ is:

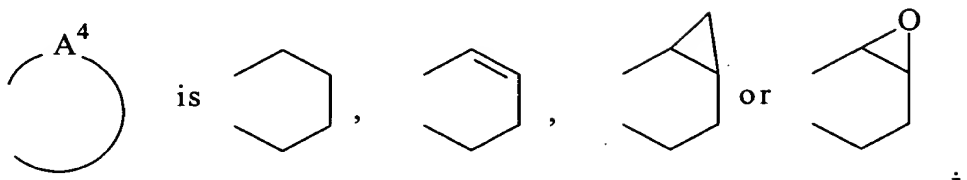


in which R^{12} is hydrogen or lower alkyl),

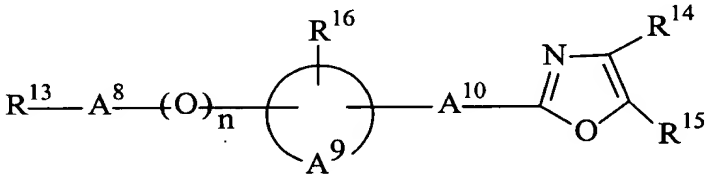
Q^2 is N or CH,

R^{10} is aryl and

R^{11} is aryl), and



5. (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 1, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(III)

~~[~~wherein

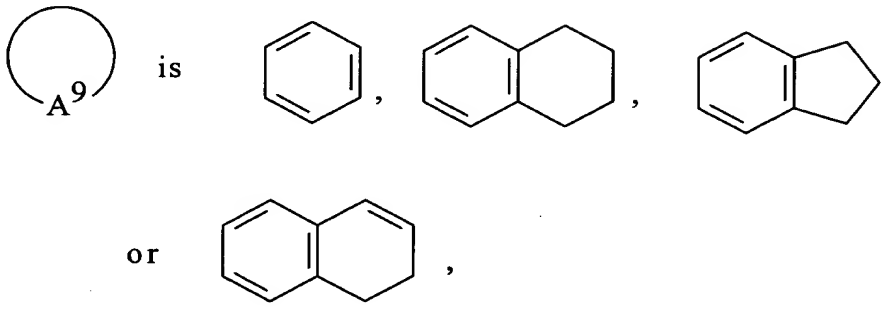
R^{13} is carboxy or protected carboxy,

R^{14} is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

R^{15} is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

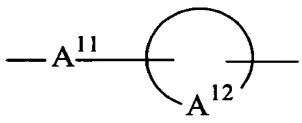
R^{16} is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy or aryl,

A^8 is lower alkylene,

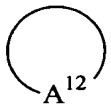


BD

$-A^{10}-$ is:



(in which $-A^{11}-$ is a single bond, $-CH_2-$ or -CO-,



represents cyclo(C_5-C_8)alkene, cyclo(C_7-C_8)alkane, bicycloheptane, bicycloheptene, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, azetidine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) or $-X-A^{13}-$ (in which –X– is –O–, –S–, or $-N(R^{17})-$ (R^{17} being hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl) and A^{13} is lower alkylene which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) and n is 0 or 1].

6 (Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the~~ A method for preventing or treating a skin ulcer or decubitus ulcer (bedsore) comprising administering an effective amount of one or more nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist(s) ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of:

(1) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclohexen-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(2) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclopenten-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(3) [(2R)-5-(carboxymethoxy)-2-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphth-2-yl]methyl]N,N-diphenylcarbamate,

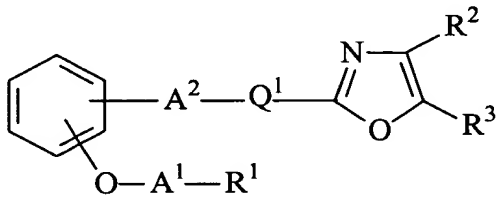
(4) (1R)-1-[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]-5-carboxymethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene or

(5) [3-[[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

7 (Cancelled):

8 (Cancelled):

9 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(I)

{wherein

R^1 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

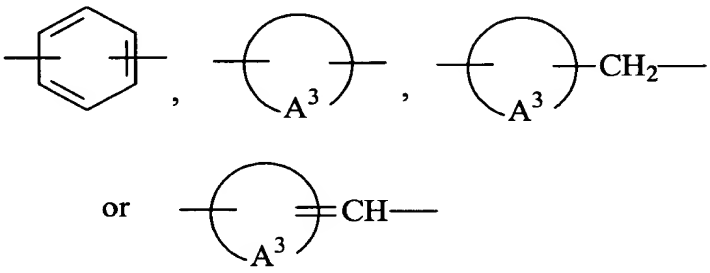
R^2 is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

R^3 is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

A^1 is lower alkylene,

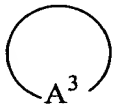
A^2 is a single bond or lower alkylene and

$-Q^1-$ is:

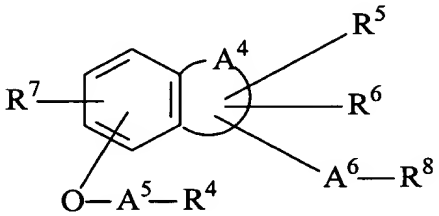


B2

(in which

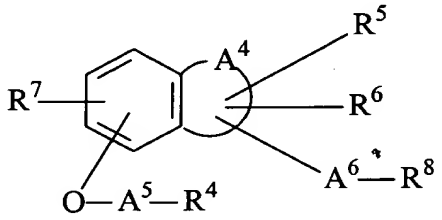


represents cyclo(lower)alkane or cyclo(lower)alkene, which respectively may optionally have



one or more suitable substituents)}.

10 (Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (II) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



(II)

[wherein

R^4 is carboxy or protected carboxy,

R^5 is hydrogen, hydroxy or protected hydroxy,

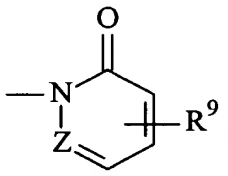
R^6 is hydrogen, hydroxy, protected hydroxy, lower alkyl or halogen,

R^7 is hydrogen or halogen,

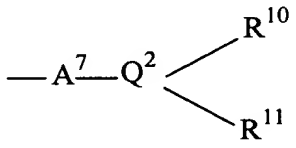
A^5 is lower alkylene,

A^6 is a single bond or lower alkylene and

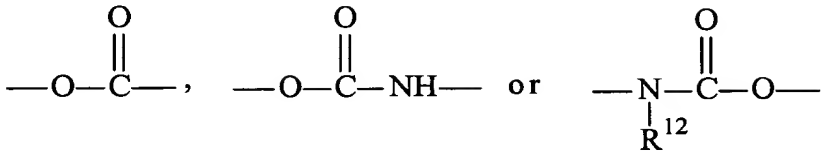
$-R^8$ is:



(in which R^9 is mono(or di or tri)aryl(lower)alkyl and Z is N or CH) or



(in which $-A^7-$ is:

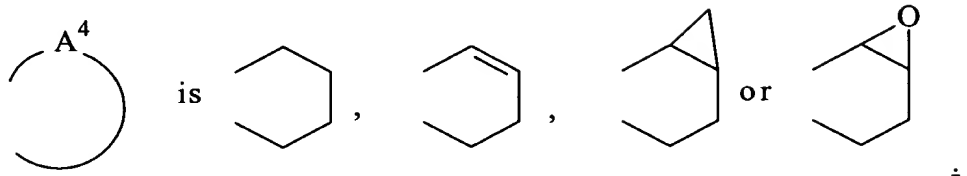


(in which R^{12} is hydrogen or lower alkyl),

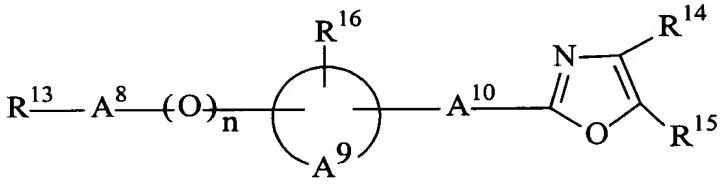
Q^2 is N or CH,

R^{10} is aryl and

R^{11} is aryl), and



11 (Withdrawn, Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is a compound of the following general formula (III) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:



[wherein

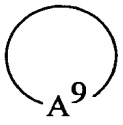
R^{13} is carboxy or protected carboxy,

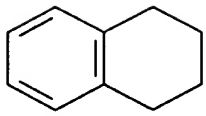
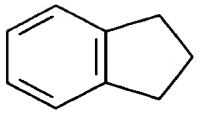
R^{14} is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

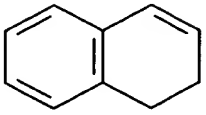
R^{15} is aryl which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents,

R^{16} is hydrogen, lower alkyl, hydroxy or aryl,

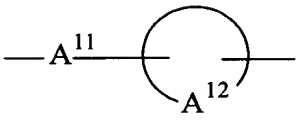
A^8 is lower alkylene,



is  ,  , 

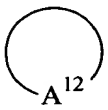
or  ,

$-A^{10}-$ is:



B2

(in which $-A^{11}-$ is a single bond, $-CH_2-$ or -CO-,



represents cyclo(C_5-C_8)alkene, cyclo(C_7-C_8)alkane, bicycloheptane, bicycloheptene, tetrahydrofuran, tetrahydrothiophene, azetidine, pyrrolidine or piperidine, which respectively may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) or $-X-A^{13}-$ (in which –X– is –O–, –S–, or $–N(R^{17})-$ (R^{17} being hydrogen, lower alkyl or acyl) and A^{13} is lower alkylene which may optionally have one or more suitable substituents) and n is 0 or 1].

12 (Currently Amended): ~~A pharmaceutical composition as claimed in~~ The method of Claim 2, wherein the nonprostanoid prostaglandin I_2 agonist is

(1) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclohexen-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(2) [3-[[(1S)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)-2-cyclopenten-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid,

(3) [(2R)-5-(carboxymethoxy)-2-hydroxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphth-2-yl]methyl]N,N-diphenylcarbamate,

(4) (1R)-1-[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]-5-carboxymethoxy-1,2,3,4-tetrahydronaphthalene or

(5) [3-[[(2R)-2-(4,5-diphenyloxazol-2-yl)pyrrolidin-l-yl]methyl]phenoxy]acetic acid, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said ulcer is an ulcer of a lower limb.

14 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said ulcer is a burn ulcer.

B2

15 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said ulcer is a traumatic ulcer.

16 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said ulcer is a crural (cnemial) ulcer.

17 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said ulcer is a decubitus ulcer (bedsore).

18 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said ulcer is associated with diabetic gangrene.

19 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said subject is a human.

20 (New): The method of Claim 1, wherein said subject is not a human.

21 (New): The method of Claim 3, comprising administering a salt of the compound of general formula (I).

22 (New): The method of Claim 3, comprising administering a solvate of the compound of general formula (I).